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Serial No. 10/018,754

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1. (Previously Presented) A characteristic value identification method comprising:
  - a first process for preparing a functional model of a product part based on a potential quantity and a flow quantity representing energy applied to the product part,
  - a second process for converting the functional model into a steady functional model in a steady state to identify a steady internal characteristic value, and
  - a third process for identifying a transient internal characteristic value of the functional model in a transient state by using the steady internal characteristic value.
2. (Original) The characteristic value identification method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the second process includes;
  - a first step for determining an internal characteristic value of at least one steady test model from the steady functional model,
  - a second step for collecting steady test data by performing a test corresponding to the steady test model, and
  - a third step for identifying a steady internal characteristic value of the internal characteristic value based on the steady test data.
3. (Original) The characteristic value identification method as claimed in claim 2 wherein the first step determines the internal characteristic value from a government equation in the steady state of the functional model.
4. (Original) The characteristic value identification method as claimed in claim 3 wherein the third step converts the government equation into a recurrence equation to determine the steady internal characteristic value from a recurrence coefficient of the recurrence equation.
5. (Original) The characteristic value identification method as claimed in claim 2 wherein